

#E1-451
R91

January 14th 2004

Surface Transportation Board
Environmental Analysis Section
Room 500
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

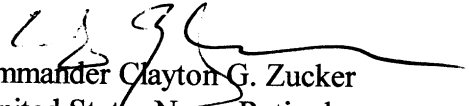
Gentlemen,

In reference to Surface Transportation Board, Docket No. AB-44 (Sub-No. 1X):

Wherein the Vermont Agency of Transportation is attempting to accomplish rail-banking for the Lamoille Valley Rail Corridor, the route of the former St. Johnsbury and Lamoille County Railroad. I have been informed that The Agency filed the required package of information to the S.T.B. on November 24th 2003.

In response to the posting of the notice in the Federal Register, I wish to lend my wholehearted support to this action and strongly urge your taking the necessary action to officially abandon the line and preserve ("bank") the corridor.

I have lived near the corridor for 13 years and have observed as it continues to deteriorate and serve no useful purpose to any entity. The potential for success of a recreation trail on this corridor appears to be very high. It is easy to see that such a use of the corridor would lead to significant economic stimulation for the 17 towns along the 96 mile route. Over the last 120 years, railroad companies have tried and failed to make a success of their efforts and it is high time to admit that this is not the way to go. So-called Rail Trails are succeeding throughout the nation and this is exactly that which is needed at this location. I thank you for your attention to my letter.


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